

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Barbara Beerhalter	Chair
Cynthia A. Kitlinski	Commissioner
Norma McKanna	Commissioner
Robert J. O'Keefe	Commissioner
Darrel L. Peterson	Commissioner

In the Matter of the Petition of Central Telephone Company Minnesota to Discontinue Offering the Optional Toll Calling Plan and Community Calling Plan

ISSUE DATE: March 14, 1988

DOCKET NO. P-405/M-88-82

ORDER APPROVING ADOPTION OF DESIGNATED INTRALATA TOLL CARRIER'S OPTIONAL TOLL CALLING PLAN AND COMMUNITY CALLING PLAN

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On February 2, 1988 Central Telephone Company Minnesota (Centel or the Company) filed new tariff sheets substituting the Optional Toll Calling Plan and Community Calling Plan of the designated intralata toll carrier, at that carrier's rates, for its existing Optional Toll Calling Plan and Community Calling Plan. The Company stated that the change was essentially administrative and was intended to bring its tariffs into conformity with the tariffs of the company actually providing the service.

The Department of Public Service (the DPS) investigated the proposed tariff change and recommended its rejection on grounds that the Commission should preserve as many discount toll options as possible pending comprehensive examination of toll discount issues in other Commission proceedings.

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

The issue before the Commission is whether the proposed tariff changes are fair, reasonable, and in the public interest. Minn. Stat. § 237.06 (1986).

## FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission finds that it is Northwestern Bell, not Centel, which provides the services offered in the Optional Toll Calling Plan and Community Calling Plan. Centel offers these plans only as a service to customers. All revenues collected under either plan go directly to Northwestern Bell.

When Centel added these two plans to its service offerings, the rates and conditions of service were determined by Northwestern Bell. Both companies intended that Centel's rates and conditions of service would continue to track those of Northwestern Bell. The present disparity in the two companies' tariffs is due to inadvertence.

The purpose and effect of the proposed tariff change is merely to bring Centel's Optional Toll Calling Plan and Community Calling Plan rates back into conformity with those of the service provider. Customer service will not be affected. Centel will continue to offer the two plans in the same manner as before, except that Northwestern Bell's current rates will apply.

These rates have been duly approved by the Commission in tariff filings by Northwestern Bell and are in effect for other independent regulated telephone companies.

The Commission finds that the proposed tariff changes are fair, reasonable, and in the public interest. They are revenue-neutral for the Company. They are intended only to incorporate Commission-approved rate changes which should have been incorporated as they occurred. The existing rates are an anomaly, and requiring their continuance will not expand the range of discount toll options available for consideration in any comprehensive examination of discount toll issues.

For these reasons, the Commission will approve the proposed tariff changes.

## ORDER

1. The proposed tariff changes filed by Central Telephone Company Minnesota on February 2, 1988 are hereby approved.
2. The Company will continue to offer the Optional Toll Calling Plan and the Community Calling Plan in the same manner as before, except that Northwestern Bell's current rates will apply.
3. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Mary Ellen Hennen  
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)